Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of communicating with a user of a processor-based device over a network, the method comprising:

~~providing~~ receiving by a first user a body-less electronic mail message, the body-less electronic mail message having a subject line and lacking a message body capable of receiving message content,[;] ~~receiving a text message into~~ the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message containing at least one text message; ~~and~~

~~transmitting the body-less electronic mail message to the user over the network~~

receiving from the first user, while the first user has the body-less electronic mail message selected, a command to initiate synchronous communications with a second user;

converting, in response to the command from the first user, the body-less electronic mail message into a synchronous communications format that includes each text message contained in the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message; and

initiating, in response to the command from the first user, synchronous communications between the first and second users to present each text message contained in the subject line of the converted body-less electronic mail message to the first and second users in the synchronous communications format.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages taken from a subject line of a previous body-less electronic mail message.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages

taken from a chat conversation converted into a format of a body-less electronic mail message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox view, and displaying on the display screen an entire contents of the subject line when a cursor is positioned over a subject column of the line item.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox view having a column for the subject line, and displaying on the display screen a scroll bar arrow at one end of the subject line column, when a cursor is positioned over the subject column of the line item, for horizontally scrolling through the contents of the subject line.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting a delimiter into the subject line to separate the text message from a previous text message currently included in the subject line.

7. (canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting a chat conversion into [a] the body-less electronic mail message.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying on a user interface a chat-like graphical window for engaging in the synchronous communications ~~chat in response to receiving the~~

~~body-less electronic mail message over the network~~.

10. - 32. (cancelled)

33. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising giving the first user an option to reply to the received body-less electronic mail message with an electronic mail message having a message body.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically generating a body-less electronic mail message when the first user chooses to reply to or forward the received body-less electronic mail message.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising automatically placing a delineator between a text message presently in the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message when the first user receives the body-less electronic mail message and a text message subsequently added to the subject line after the first user chooses to reply to or forward the received body-less electronic mail message.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the delineator includes a carriage return so that the text message subsequently added to the subject line appears on a new line within the subject line.

37. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically signing each text message in the subject line with an identity of an author of that text message.

38. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to a user an option to choose between generating a body-less electronic mail message and generating an electronic mail message with a message body.

39. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising preventing the first user from deleting content from the subject line of the received body-less electronic mail message.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying the received body-less electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox view; and

displaying an indicator in association with the line item to identify the line item as a body-less electronic mail message.

41. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, by the first user, synchronous communications from the second user;

receiving, from the first user, a command to initiate asynchronous communications with the second user;

converting, in response to the command to initiate asynchronous communications, the received synchronous communications into a second body-less electronic mail message; and

transmitting the second body-less electronic mail message to the second user over the network.